

SUPPLEMENTAL DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 69-82, 83-85 directed to groups non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 6-14 and 17-18 have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments and amendments to the claims, see pages 8-9, filed June 23, 2009, with respect to the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1, 2-5, 15, and 16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of March 23, 2009 has been withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments and amendments to the claims, see pages 9-11, filed June 23, 2009, with respect to the 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 1-5 and 15-16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of March 23, 2009 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-5, 15-16, and 19 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious to combination of limitations recited in the claims. Mizumoto US Patent No. 4,540,087 discloses a work transfer apparatus, but does not disclose a work transfer apparatus with carriages that are provided on the feed carriers that are moveable along each of the bars as recited by independent claim 1. Furthermore, the feed drive mechanism disclosed by Mizumoto only causes motion of the transfer bars and does not drive the feed carriers as recited by independent claim 1. Additionally, Vanderzee et al. US Patent No. 5,782,129 does not disclose feed carriers provided on a pair of bars and movable along each of the bars and feed drive mechanisms, which drive the feed carriers provided on the bar along that bar in the work transfer direction, as recited by independent claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie Jennings whose telephone number is (571) 270-7392. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7 am - 5:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached on (571) 272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. J./
Examiner, Art Unit 3725
December 15, 2009

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3725